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State Dept. review completed

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1. HUNGARIAN WORKERS CALL FOR NEW ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATIONS

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Following four days of public demonstrations against the Kadar regime and Soviet domination, worker groups in Hungary have called for a "mass demonstration" on 6 December, "St. Nicholas Day." Some observers fear that this might lead to an outbreak of armed conflict.

Some leaflets circulating in the capital have called for a new armed uprising, but others appear to be aimed primarily at renewing the general strike in protest over Kadar's rebuff of the political demands of the workers' councils.

Kadar has announced abolition of the revolutionary councils which had come into being during the revolution. These apparently have acted as "opposition groups" to Kadar and have fought his efforts to reassert control over governmental ministries, local government organs and youth and intellectual groups.

Resistance has been stimulated by Soviet conduct in attempting to disperse a group of demonstrators on 2 December and the strong-handed manner in dealing with the women's demonstration on 4 December. Many workers continue to believe that further concessions can be wrung from the government and that their best course is to continue anti-Soviet demonstrations.

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2. BOHLEN ASSESSES SOVIET INTERNAL SITUATION

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Ambassador Bohlen, assessing the impact of Eastern European events on the Soviet internal situation, believes that these developments pose a long-term problem for the Soviet leadership rather than an imminent threat necessitating radical changes in domestic or foreign policy.

Bohlen reports that the Satellite situation has produced no discernible threat to the stability of the regime. He believes, however, that symptoms of restlessness among the intelligentsia and particularly among the students could presage greater difficulties, particularly if new explosions occur in the Satellites.

The embassy sees no significant change in Soviet domestic policy as enunciated at the 20th party congress. There are indications, however, particularly in the ideological, educational and cultural fields, of a tendency to crack down on any "excesses." There have also been some inconclusive indications that less attention is being given to heavy industry and somewhat more to the consumer goods program.

Bohlen believes that the combination of workers' grievances and discontent among the intelligentsia in the Satellites constitutes a warning to the Soviet leaders in regard to policies at home. As a result, some form of economic concessions along with stricter party control over the intelligentsia may be forthcoming. The regime does not appear to envisage a return to Stalinist methods, however, as part of its general policy.

While the current crisis makes personnel changes in the leadership much more likely than at any time since Malenkov's demotion in February 1955, the embassy has no reliable information on this possibility. Recent Soviet actions indicate that any division within the leadership has not been so critical as to paralyze it. There has also been no sign that the Soviet military, despite its action in Hungary, has permanently enhanced its influence in policy making, and "certainly none" that the military is developing or seeks to develop into a cohesive political force in opposition to the party.

3. VATICAN APPOINTMENTS IMPLY RECOGNITION OF POLAND'S RIGHT TO GERMAN AREAS

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The Vatican's appointment of five bishops in Poland's western territories and in that portion of former East Prussia now occupied by Poland, implies Vatican recognition of Polish sovereignty over these territories. The Vatican since 1945 had refrained from appointing bishops in these territories because such action was considered contingent upon a final settlement of Germany's boundaries.

This action of the Vatican, which the Polish news agency has described as "confirmation of the inviolability of the frontiers of the republic on the Oder and Neisse and the Baltic," will strengthen Polish popular support for the Gomulka regime. These appointments followed the reinstatement of Cardinal Wyszynski as primate of Poland, and represent a major step in the re-establishment of normal relations between the Vatican and a Communist state. A Polish radio announcement of 4 December that religious instruction will be introduced in the public schools goes even further in fulfilling the aspirations of the predominantly Catholic Poles.

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5. NASR REGIME MOVES AGAINST POTENTIAL OPPOSITION LEADERS

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[REDACTED]

During the past week Egyptian police have arrested about 150 persons on the charge of "spreading rumors" against the Nasr regime, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Among those arrested were a number who were prominent politically under the monarchy, particularly in the old Wafd party. Those arrested were released after an hour's detention, [REDACTED] the arrests were intended as a warning.

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Possible reasons for the Nasr regime's increased concern for security at this time are suggested

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that the general public finally appears to comprehend the extent of the Egyptian military fiasco. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] public attitudes toward the regime are fatalistic, and there is no appreciable group which would support the return of the monarchy or Wafdist rule. [REDACTED]

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6. AFGHAN-PAKISTANI TALKS



The visit of Afghan prime minister Daud to Karachi from 24 November to 2 December, although carried on in a spirit of mutual cordiality, has apparently resulted in no progress toward settling outstanding issues between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The American embassy in Karachi points out that, contrary to expectations, no decision was made to exchange ambassadors and the talks apparently never got beyond Pushtoonistan. The embassy states that Daud insisted on "settling" this issue before discussing other problems, such as transit and economic relations between the two countries. The Pakistanis refused to agree to self-determination for the Pushtoons, but in the joint communiqué of 2 December agreed for the first time to official mention of Pushtoonistan.

The American embassy feels, nevertheless, that neither side wishes to close the door. Pakistani prime minister Suhrawardy has been invited to visit Kabul sometime after King Zahir's visit to Pakistan in January.